

Alabama **broiler** producers marketed 1,053.4 million birds during the 2006 marketing year, a decrease from the previous year. Cullman was the leading broiler county, followed by DeKalb, Marshall, and Blount. Cash receipts amounted to \$2.16 billion, down 10 percent from 2005. Alabama ranked third nationally in broiler production behind Georgia and Arkansas. **Commercial broiler hatcheries** in Alabama hatched 1.36 billion chicks for the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006, up 3 percent from the previous year. Alabama hatcheries shipped 271.8 million broiler-type chicks to other states, including 57.0 million to Mississippi and 121.3 million to Georgia. Chicks shipped into Alabama numbered 27.8 million. Egg-type hatchery data are not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

During 2006, Alabama's laying flocks produced 2.00 billion **eggs**, down 3 percent from the previous year. Cash receipts from eggs were \$274.5 million, down 3 percent from the previous year. Alabama ranked 14th nationally in egg production. There were 8.95 million **layers** 20 weeks old and older on hand December 1, 2006 compared with 9.14 million in 2005. DeKalb County had the largest layer inventory, followed by Marhsall, Cullman and Baldwin counties.

Poultry Facts

- ✕ A cockerel is a male chicken under one year of age; cock or a rooster is a male more than one year old; pullet is a female under one year, and a hen is a female over one year of age
- ✕ A broiler or fryer is a young meat-type chicken that can be cooked tender by broiling or frying and usually weighing between 2 ½ and 3 ½ pounds
- ✕ A roaster is a young meat type chicken that can be cooked tender by roasting and usually weighing 4 pounds or more
- ✕ Laying hens will start to lay eggs at about 20 weeks of age

Annual Egg Production			
Year	Total	Table	Hatching
	Million		
1997	2,499	1,091	1,408
1998	2,507	1,092	1,415
1999	2,450	959	1,491
2000	2,371	791	1,580
2001	2,359	730	1,629
2002	2,281	635	1,646
2003	2,190	589	1,601
2004	2,099	517	1,582
2005	2,071	461	1,610
2006	2,002	449	1,553

